

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 15679 01 OF 02 291931Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 SIL-01

LAB-01 /066 W

----- 031793

R 291854Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6152

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: PARTY LEADERSHIP

REBUFFED ON EEC

REF: LONDON 15523

SUMMARY: PARTY CONFERENCE APPROVED TWO RESOLUTIONS ON
EEC QUESTION, THE SECOND OF WHICH WILL INCREASE PRESSURE
ON WILSON GOVERNMENT TO REJECT RESULTS OF RENEGOTIATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 15679 01 OF 02 291931Z

END SUMMARY

1. LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 29 OVERWHELMINGLY ENDORSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO PERMIT A REFERENDUM ON CONTINUED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN EEC AND URGING CONTROLS TO ENSURE BALANCED MEDIA PRESENTATION FOR AND AGAINST CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) SUPPORTED THIS RESOLUTION. CONFERENCE ALSO APPROVED, IN WHAT WAS PROBABLY THE CLIMACTIC EVENT OF MEETING, A SECOND RESOLUTION DEMANDING EIGHT SPECIFIC "SAFEGUARDS" FOR CURRENT EC RENEGOTIATION ON AN EXTREMELY NARROW (158 THOUSAND MARGIN WITH 5.9 MILLION VOTES CAST) CARD VOTE. NEC OPPOSED ADOPTION OF SECOND RESOLUTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT, IF ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD IMPOSE NEW CONDITIONS FOR RENEGOTIATION. (WILSON GOVERNMENT IS RENEGOTIATING PURSUANT TO OBJECTIVES DEFINED IN 1972 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION.) TEXT OF THE SECOND RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

"THIS CONFERENCE DEMANDS THAT COMPLETE SAFEGUARDS ARE GAINED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ON ALL THE FOLLOWING POINTS, BEFORE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY TERMS IS RECOMMENDED TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC:

(A) THE NEED FOR PARLIAMENTARY SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO REJECT ANY EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY LEGISLATION, DIRECTIVES OR ORDERS, WHEN THEY ARE ISSUED, OR AT ANY TIME AFTER THEY ARE ISSUED;

(B) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO BRING ANY FIRM IN BRITAIN UNDER PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, AND TO CONTROL AND REGULATE INDUSTRY BY FINANCIAL OR OTHER MEANS AS THEY REQUIRE;

(C) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO RESTRICT CAPITAL INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS;

(D) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO DETERMINE ITS OWN TAXATION POLICY;

(E) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO SUBSIDIZE FOOD AND IMPORT FOOD FREE OF DUTY;

(F) THE RIGHT OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO EXPORT TO BRITAIN ON TERMS AT LEAST AS FAVORABLE AS BEFORE BRITAIN ENTERED THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY;

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 15679 01 OF 02 291931Z

(G) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO CONTROL LABOR MOVEMENTS INTO BRITAIN;

(H) THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO INDEPENDENTLY DETERMINE ITS OWN DEFENSE POLICY. BEFORE ANY ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS IS MADE, A REFERENDUM AND NOT A GENERAL ELECTION MUST BE HELD ON THE SUBJECT. BEFORE A REFERENDUM IS HELD A SPECIAL CONFERENCE SHALL BE HELD WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE PARTY'S STANDPOINT ON

ALL ISSUES AT THE REFERENDUM."

2. ALTHOUGH THE NEC SUPPORTED FIRST RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED BY THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (TGWU), COMMONS LEADER EDWARD SHORT, SPEAKING FOR THE NEC, EQUIVOCATED AS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REFERENDUM. IN THIS REGARD HE SAID: "I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WILL DECIDE THIS ISSUE. THEY WILL DECIDE IT WITHIN THIS COMING YEAR OR BEFORE OCTOBER OF NEXT YEAR. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE WILL PRODUCE THE RIGHT ANSWER AND THIS GOVERNMENT WILL ABIDE BY THE ANSWER. I

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 15679 02 OF 02 291923Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 SIL-01

LAB-01 /066 W

----- 031682

R 291854Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6153

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15679

HOPE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE WHOLE LABOR MOVEMENT WILL
ABIDE BY THE ANSWER AS WELL, WHATEVER IT MAY BE."

3. THE SECOND RESOLUTION, SUBMITTED BY A CONSTITUENCY
PARTY, WAS THE CHOSEN VEHICLE OF THE ANTI-MARKET GROUP.
THE CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE, WHICH SCREENED
ALL EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS, REJECTED FOUR OTHERS HAVING
DECIDEDLY ANTI-COMMON MARKET THRUST AND, WE UNDERSTAND,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 15679 02 OF 02 291923Z

ACCEDED TO THE SECOND RESOLUTION IN THE FACE OF INTENSE
PRESSURE FROM THE ANTI-MARKETEERS. HAVING LOST THE
STRUGGLE TO EXCLUDE THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH SHARPLY RE-
STRICTS THE GOVERNMENT'S ROOM TO MANEUVER (INDEED, IF
TAKEN LITERALLY, IT WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE BRITISH
MEMBERSHIP), THE GOVERNMENT NO DOUBT HOPED THAT IT WOULD
FAIL TO CARRY. IT WAS A VERY NARROW LOSS. IT IS ALSO
INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LESS THAN 5.9 MILLION OF A TOTAL
6.1 MILLION VOTES AT THE CONFERENCE WERE ACTUALLY CAST.
HAD THE MISSING VOTES BEEN CAST AGAINST THE RESOLUTION,
IT WOULD HAVE FAILED.

4. LABOR GOVERNMENTS HAVE FREQUENTLY IGNORED INSTRUCTIONS
OF THE PARTY CONFERENCE IN THE PAST, AND THERE ARE NO
INDICATIONS THAT PRIME MINISTER WILSON WILL SUPINELY
ACCEPT THIS RESOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, ITS PASSAGE WAS A
VICTORY FOR THE ANTI-MARKETEERS AND WILL BE EXPLOITED BY
THEM TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REJECT
RESULTS OF RENEGOTIATION.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON15679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740347-0052
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974113/aaaaackm.tel
Line Count: 210
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 15523
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: PARTY LEADERSHIP REBUFFED ON EEC
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EEC, PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005